



NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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January 2021

Dashing Through the Snow



Photo: Scott Ridenhour

Piedmont Train 73 dusts up snow near Salisbury, NC on its way to Charlotte on January 22. NC By Train provides essential transportation between North Carolina communities during weather events.

Federal Railroad Administrator Speaks at NC's 2022 Transportation Summit

The N.C. Department of Transportation, in partnership with NC Go!, held the third annual N.C. Transportation Summit in Raleigh on Jan. 19-20, 2022.

At his first in-person event since being confirmed as administrator, Amit Bose spoke at the session "The Future of Rail is Changing – What That Could Mean for N.C." Also speaking at the session were John Dillard, Director of State Relations at CSX Transportation, and Ray Lang, Vice President of State-Supported Services at Amtrak. N.C. Board of Transportation member Brad Lail moderated the session.



Administrator Bose gave an overview of how the FRA views the future of rail in America and the impact the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will have on improving rail safety, freight, and passenger rail infrastructure. He thanked North Carolina's congressional members and leaders for supporting this bill that will play

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a central role in our nation's transportation and economic future. He said that investments in rail are a win/win for both freight and passenger services.

The bill supports the FRA's priorities of safety, economic growth, and building programs that will benefit as many citizens as possible. With NCDOT's track record of successfully planning for and delivering dozens of rail projects in partnership with the FRA, and with even more high-impact rail projects in the pipeline, North Carolina is well positioned to continue partnering with them, our state's railroads, and neighboring states to progress transformative rail projects .



While attending yesterday's NC Transportation Summit FRA Administrator Bose says, "I want to commend the state of NC & the @NCDOT for their proactive and forward-thinking approach to rail investments, both passenger & freight. NC is a leader in rail innovation and safety."



3:59 PM · Jan 20, 2022 · Twitter Web App

John Dillard, Director of State Relations at CSX Transportation, Inc, gave an overview of the CSX system, the core intermodal service triangle in their network, and how locating the CCX Carolina Connector Intermodal Facility in Rocky Mount was a logical and well-coordinated addition to their network. Since opening in November, initial volumes are very good, and the workflow has been seamless, congestion free and safe.

Regarding the infrastructure law, Dillard acknowledged the opportunities it offers. CSX and NCDOT have a strong history of successful projects that provides a basis for working together on future projects.



L to R: Ray Lang, vice president of State-Supported Services at Amtrak; Jason Orthner, director of the NCDOT Rail Division; and Amit Bose, administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, tour Raleigh Union Station as part of their visit to North Carolina for the 2022 NC Transportation Summit.

Ray Lang, Vice President of State-Supported Services at Amtrak, spoke on expanding passenger rail service in North Carolina and the Southeast and the importance of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in supporting rail infrastructure in the United States. The \$66 billion in advance appropriations allocated nationally for rail is the largest infusion of funding for rail projects in history.

The funding for intercity passenger rail is structured to help states grow rail corridor services. Mr. Lang noted that 49% of Amtrak ridership is on trains operated in partnership with states.

2022
TRANSPORTATION
SUMMIT
Moving from vision to reality
at the speed of change

Watch the
session from
the N.C.
Transportation
Summit.

Carolina Coastal Railroad Crossing Improved in Wilson County



Fairfield Dairy Road crossing after improvements

The NCDOT Rail Division continues to improve railroad crossings across our state. Our featured crossing this month is on the Carolina Coastal Railroad in Wilson County. This project improved a crossing on Fairfield Dairy Road near Stantonsburg. The crossing had an old surface of deteriorating asphalt with no flangeway material, creating a rough crossing. A new asphalt and rubber rail seal was installed, and the crossing repaved, to give a safer and smoother ride. The Carolina Coastal Railroad, NCDOT Wilson County maintenance, and the NCDOT Rail Division partnered together on this project.



State Employee Service Awards Program

Rail Division employees receiving awards for years of service to the State of North Carolina include:

- **Shawn Grubb**, Railroad Safety Inspector, Engineering Coordination & Safety Unit (5 years)
- **Ain Flowers**, Rail Safety Program Coordinator, Engineering Coordination & Safety Unit (5 years)
- **Tom Brown**, Highway/Railroad Project Manager, Engineering Coordination & Safety (5 years)
- **Brad Smythe**, Rail Design Manager, Design & Construction Unit (20 years)
- **James Bridges**, (Ret.) Manager, Planning & Development Unit (30 years)



Buy One, Get One Free! February 9-16, good for travel March to August. Visit [NC By Train](https://ncbytrain.org) beginning Feb. 9 to purchase tickets.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



View of concourse and platform construction



Forming pedestrian tunnel walls

The Rail Division continues to lead the construction of Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1. NCDOT is working with the City of Charlotte in their efforts to progress Phase 2 with developer Charlotte Gateway Partners to deliver the large and transformative station and mixed use development.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update (continued)



Pouring concrete deck on passenger platform



Reinforcing steel installation at 4th Street platform bridge deck